

Green Lodging News

July/August 2006

Cutting Costs by Cutting Wastes

As landfills fill to capacity there is increased pressure to reduce solid disposal waste. Fortunately, there is also an opportunity for significant cost savings. To get started, closely examine your facilities waste stream. Identify where and why wastes are generated. Look

Green Lodging News is a publication targeted toward Michigan's hospitality facilities. It is a service of the Energy Office, Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Growth. If you are interested in subscribing to the bimonthly newsletter, please contact dohertyrl@michigan.gov.

Green Tip of the Month

Covering swimming pools while not in use is the single most effective way to reduce pool heating costs. Pool covers reduce evaporation, the major source of heat loss, and are useful for both indoor and outdoor pools. Additional benefits of pool covers include:

- Conserving water by reducing makeup water needed by 30-50%.
- Reducing chemicals needed by 35-60%.
- Cut cleaning time by keeping dirt and debris out of pool.

into garbage cans and dumpsters to determine which materials can be reduced, reused, or recycled. Some basic tips include:

Reduce

- Reduce packaging by buying in bulk.
- Use durable equipment and supplies.
- Reduce discarded newsprint by providing newspapers only by request or in central areas.
- Provide underused amenities, such as shower caps, only by request.
- Install refillable dispensers for soap, shampoo, lotion, etc.

Reuse

- Provide reusable items, such as cloth napkins, glass cups, and ceramic

dishes, with food and beverage services.

- Donate leftover food to local, non-profit organization and/or use a compost bin.
- Buy used or recycling-content goods whenever possible.
- Donate old furniture and appliances to charities.

Recycle

- Contact potential haulers, processors, and handlers about recyclable materials and details about existing systems.
- Common hospitality industry recyclables are: aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles, newspapers, office paper, cardboard, electronic waste and organics.

- Educate staff on the importance of waste reduction and recycling.
- Make sure existing recycling programs are being used effectively by staff.
- Provide guests with details on what materials are recyclable.
- Locate bins in guestrooms under desks and in closets or place in convenient common areas.
- Place trash cans near recycling bins to reduce contamination.
- Focus program on convenience, simplicity, reliability, and cost-effectiveness.

Start managing your wastes today and cut costs while protecting the environment.

Buying Recycled Goods

One way to increase the overall effectiveness of your facilities recycling program is to make a commitment to buy recycled goods. Buying recycled products stimulates the market for recyclable materials. It also provides incentives for manufacturers to use more recyclables in production, which reduces our dependence on natural resources, conserves energy, and prevents pollution. The economy also benefits when wastes are diverted from the landfill to become feedstock for new products. Below are 5 steps for establishing a buy recycled program..

1. Obtain support from management and employees.
2. Develop a policy and set goals.
3. Locate recycled products by contacting vendors and checking recycling product resources such as the MI Recycled Materials Market Directory.
4. Promote buying recycled both in-house and within the community.
5. Monitor your program.



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